

REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for courtesies extended during the Examiner Interview of September 2, 2005.

Disposition of Claims

Claims 1, 2, and 4 are currently pending in this application. Claims 1 and 4 are independent. Claim 2 depends from claim 1.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 2, and 4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,239,794 ("Yuen"). Claims 1 and 4 have been amended to clarify the present invention as recited. Support for this amendment may be found, for example, on pages 8-9, paragraph 30, of the Instant Specification. To the extent that this rejection may still apply to the amended claims, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

As described previously, the claimed invention relates to an interface that provides simple access to a variety of services associated with digital television systems. Particularly, the claimed invention relates to an arrangement of cells, each having a visual object that is displayed (*e.g.*, like the current video of a television program, textual information about a program, etc.) and an underlying application that provides more information about the visual object of the cell. In order to view the underlying application, which is not displayed until the user selects the particular cell of interest, the user must use a cursor displayed on the screen to select the cell. Upon doing this, the underlying application is *launched*. That is, the underlying application is displayed from behind the cell, and the user can obtain more information about the program of the cell by navigating through the launched underlying

application. For example, if a cell displays textual information about a weather channel, the underlying application for that cell may be launched so that weather maps for the continental US or other geographical locations is displayed for the user to view (*See Specification, paragraph 30, page 9*).

Turning to the rejection of the claims, for anticipation under 35 U.S.C. § 102, the reference must teach every aspect of the claimed invention either explicitly or impliedly. Any feature not directly taught must be inherently present. The Application respectfully asserts that Yuen fails to anticipate the claimed invention for at least the following reasons:

(i) Yuen fails to disclose or suggest an underlying application associated with a cell that is launched from behind the cell to be displayed for a user upon selection of the cell using a cursor. Rather, Yuen simply discloses a picture-in-picture (PIP) window that is displayed along with a main screen that contains program information and listing of the programs being shown or run for a particular time. In fact, as discussed during the Examiner Interview of September 2, 2005, nothing in Yuen is hidden from the user's viewing until selected. In Yuen, while a user is scrolling through programs and services offered, the PIP window displays the current video or current information for each of the selected programs/services (*See Yuen, col. 2, ll. 18-22*). If the user wishes to switch to a selected program, then the user simply returns to full screen mode, and the visual display running in the PIP window is displayed on the full screen (*See Yuen, col. 2, ll. 28-31*). However, Yuen is completely silent with respect to launching an underlying application such that the application is not initially visible by a user, but upon selection of the cell, the underlying application is shown to the user.

(ii) Yuen fails to disclose or suggest a plurality of cells that can be displayed simultaneously (*i.e.*, an arrangement of cells as required by claims 1 and 4), where each cell displays different visual objects and contain different underlying programs related to the visual objects of the particular cell. Rather, in Yuen, only two different displayed areas exist: the main screen that displays programs/services, and the PIP window that runs whatever video or audio corresponds to the highlighted or selected one of the programs/services displayed on the main screen (*See* Yuen, col. 2, ll. 4-9). This is distinct from the display that the user sees in the present invention, where the user is able to scroll through several cells on one display (*See* Figure 1A of the present invention). Further, neither of the aforementioned two areas includes an underlying application that is launchable from behind the cell to be displayed to a user.

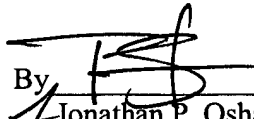
In view of the above, it is clear that Yuen fails to anticipate amended independent claims 1 and 4. Thus, amended independent claims 1 and 4 are patentable over Yuen. Dependent claim 2 is patentable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 11345.032002).

Dated: September 7, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

By  #451079
Jonathan P. Osha THOMAS SCHORR
Registration No.: 33,986
OSHA · LIANG LLP
1221 McKinney St., Suite 2800
Houston, Texas 77010
(713) 228-8600
(713) 228-8778 (Fax)
Attorney for Applicant